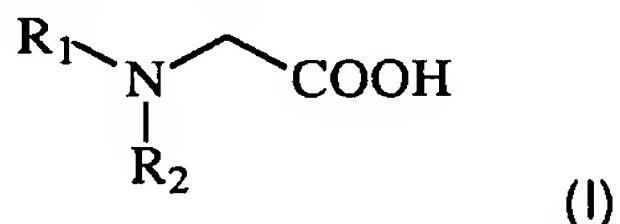


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CLAIMS

1. A method for the non-therapeutic treatment of poultry for the purpose of reducing the conversion rate of the feed used to raise the poultry, which treatment comprises orally administering at least one glycine compound to the poultry, which glycine compound corresponds to the following formula (I) or to a salt thereof:



wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently an alkyl, an alkenyl or a hydroxyalkyl radical containing 1 to 18, preferably 1 to 6 carbon atoms or
10 wherein R₁ and R₂ form jointly together with the N atom a heterocyclic 5- or 6-membered ring.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the glycine compound is selected from the group consisting of N,N-dimethylglycine (DMG), N,N-diethylglycine, N,N-diethanolglycine, N,N-dipropylglycine,
15 N,N-diisopropylglycine, or mixtures or salts thereof, the glycine compound being preferably DMG or a salt thereof.

3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the glycine compound is administered via the drinking water of the poultry.

4. The method according to any one of the claims 1 to 3,
20 wherein the glycine compound is administered via said feed.

5. The method according to any one of the claims 1 to 4, wherein the poultry comprises broiler chickens.

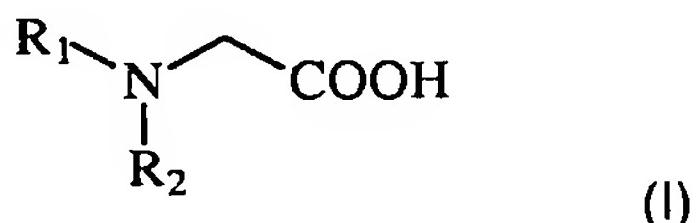
6. The method according to any one of the claims 1 to 5, wherein the glycine compound is administered during a period to poultry
25 which is selected and raised in such a manner that over said period the actual feed conversion rate is smaller than 2.50, preferably smaller than 2.45 and more preferably smaller than 2.40 kg feed/kg body weight gain

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and/or in such a manner that over said period the growth rate of the poultry is higher than 50 g/day, and preferably higher than 60 g/day.

7. The method according to any one of the claims 1 to 6, wherein the glycine compound thereof is administered in an amount of 5 between 0.001 and 0.5 % by weight of said feed, preferably in an amount of between 0.005 and 0.1 % by weight of said feed.

8. A feed for poultry comprising at least 0.001 % by weight, preferably at least 0.005 % by weight of a glycine compound, which glycine compound corresponds to the following formula (I) or to a salt 10 thereof:



wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently an alkyl, an alkenyl or a hydroxalkyl radical containing 1 to 18, preferably 1 to 6 carbon atoms or wherein R₁ and R₂ form jointly together with the N atom a heterocyclic 5-15 or 6-membered ring.

9. The feed according to claim 8, wherein the glycine compound is selected from the group consisting of N,N-dimethylglycine (DMG), N,N-diethylglycine, N,N-diethanolglycine, N,N-dipropylglycine, N,N-diisopropylglycine, or mixtures or salts thereof, the glycine compound being preferably DMG or a salt thereof. 20

10. The feed according to claim 8 or 9, which comprises said glycine compound in an amount of between 0.001 and 0.5 % by weight, preferably in an amount of between 0.005 and 0.1 % by weight.

11. The feed according to any one of the claims 8 to 10, 25 which has a metabolizable energy value of at least 11.5 MJ/kg, and preferably of at least 12.0 MJ/kg, the energy value of the feed being preferably smaller than 14 MJ/kg, more preferably smaller than 13.5 MJ/kg.

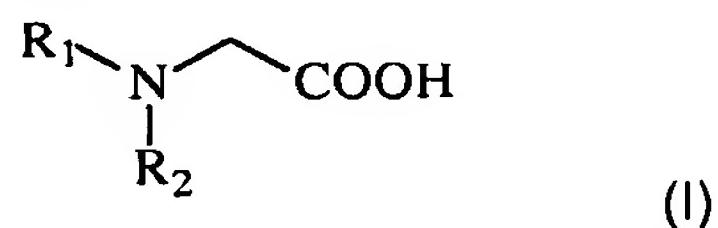
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12. The feed according to any one of the claims 8 to 11, which has a crude protein content of at least 18.5 % by weight, a crude fat content of at least 4 % by weight, a starch content of at least 30 % by weight, and/or a crude fibre content of less than 5 % by weight.

5 13. The feed according to any one of the claims 8 to 12, which has an unsaturated fatty acid content of at least 3 % by weight, preferably of at least 4 % by weight and more preferably of at least 5 % by weight.

10 14. The feed according to any one of the claims 8 to 13, which has a moisture content of less than 15 % by weight, preferably of less than 14 % by weight.

15 15. Use of a glycine compound and/or a salt thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for reducing the incidence of ascites in poultry, the glycine compound corresponding to the following formula (I) or to a salt thereof:



20 wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently an alkyl, an alkenyl or a hydroxyalkyl radical containing 1 to 18, preferably 1 to 6 carbon atoms or wherein R₁ and R₂ form jointly together with the N atom a heterocyclic 5- or 6-membered ring.

25 16. The use according to claim 15, wherein the glycine compound is selected from the group consisting of N,N-dimethylglycine (DMG), N,N-diethylglycine, N,N-diethanolglycine, N,N-dipropylglycine, N,N-diisopropylglycine, or mixtures or salts thereof, the glycine compound being preferably DMG or a salt thereof.

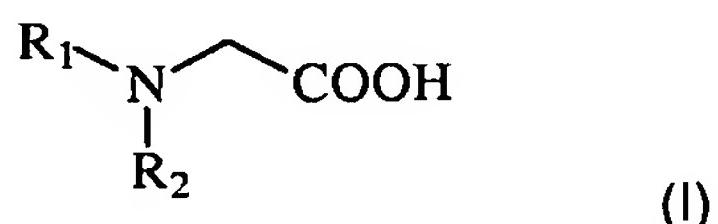
17. The use according to claim 15 or 16, wherein the glycine compound is added to poultry feed, the resultant feed comprising said

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glycine compound in an amount of between 0.001 and 0.5 % by weight, preferably in an amount of between 0.005 and 0.1 % by weight.

18. The use according to any one of the claims 15 to 17, wherein the glycine compound is administered during a period to poultry which is selected and raised in such a manner that over said period the actual feed conversion rate is smaller than 2.50, preferably smaller than 2.45 and more preferably smaller than 2.40 kg feed/kg body weight gain and/or in such a manner that over said period the growth rate of the poultry is higher than 50 g/day, and preferably higher than 60 g/day.

10 19. A method for reducing the incidence of ascites in poultry, comprising orally administering a glycine compound to the poultry, which glycine compound corresponds to the following formula (I) or to a salt thereof:



15 wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently an alkyl, an alkenyl or a hydroxyalkyl radical containing 1 to 18, preferably 1 to 6 carbon atoms or wherein R₁ and R₂ form jointly together with the N atom a heterocyclic 5- or 6-membered ring.

20 20. The method according to claim 19, wherein the glycine compound is selected from the group consisting of N,N-dimethylglycine (DMG), N,N-diethylglycine, N,N-diethanolglycine, N,N-dipropylglycine, N,N-diisopropylglycine, or mixture or salts thereof, the glycine compound being preferably DMG or a salt thereof.

25 21. The method according to claim 19 or 20, wherein the glycine compound is administered via the drinking water of the poultry.

22. The method according to any one of the claims 19 to 21, wherein the glycine compound is administered via said feed.

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23. The method according to any one of the claims 19 to 22,
wherein the poultry comprises broiler chickens.

24. The method according to any one of the claims 19 to 23,
wherein the glycine compound is administered in an amount of between
5 0.001 and 0.5 % by weight of said feed, preferably in an amount of
between 0.005 and 0.1 % by weight of said feed.

25. The method according to any one of the claims 19 to 24,
wherein the glycine compound is administered during a period to said
poultry which is selected and raised in such a manner that over said
10 period the actual feed conversion rate is smaller than 2.50, preferably
smaller than 2.45 and more preferably smaller than 2.40 kg feed/kg body
weight gain and/or in such a manner that over said period the growth rate
of the poultry is higher than 50 g/day, and preferably higher than
60 g/day.